

## I. AMENDMENTS

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 16 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claims 1 and 5, as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA) in a sample comprising ADMA, symmetric dimethylarginine (SDMA), and arginine, the method comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample with an  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compound, wherein said sample ~~is suspected of containing~~ comprises ADMA and at least one of SDMA and arginine, ~~wherein said  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compound modifies said contacting resulting in modification of~~ the guanidino nitrogens of SDMA and the guanidino nitrogens of arginine, ~~to produce~~ producing modified SDMA and modified arginine, wherein said modified SDMA and said modified arginine are distinguishable from ADMA;

b) detecting ADMA in the sample.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compound is phenylglyoxal.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the  $\alpha$ -amino group of SDMA, ADMA, and arginine before the step of modifying the guanidino nitrogens of SDMA and the guanidino nitrogens of arginine.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the  $\alpha$ -amino group is modified with a dye that provides a detectable signal.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that binds specifically to ADMA, to SDMA, or to both ADMA and SDMA, wherein said antibody does not bind to the modified SDMA.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that binds specifically to the  $\alpha$ -amino group-modified ADMA.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody is detectably labeled.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ADMA is detected by high performance liquid chromatography.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said ADMA is detected by capillary electrophoresis.
- 10.-14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the  $\alpha$ -dicarbonyl compound is selected from biacetyl, pyruvic acid, glyoxal, methylglyoxal, deoxyosones, 3-deoxyosones, malondialdehyde, 2-oxopropanal, phenylglyoxal, 2,3-butanedione, and 1,2-cyclohexanedione.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is a biological sample.
18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the dye is a fluorophore.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising detecting one or more of modified SDMA and modified arginine, wherein said detection of one or more of modified SDMA and modified arginine comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that binds specifically to one or more of modified SDMA and modified arginine.